

Like Water for Chocolate

By Laura Esquivel

Earthy, magical, and utterly charming, this tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico became a best-selling phenomenon with its winning blend of poignant romance and bittersweet wit. The classic love story takes place on the De la Garza ranch, as the tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in her final days of pregnancy. While still in her mother's womb, her daughter to be weeps so violently she causes an early labor, and little Tita slips out amid the spices and fixings for noodle soup. This early encounter with food soon becomes a way of life, and Tita grows up to be a master chef. She shares special points of her favorite preparations with listeners throughout the story.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Cafe

By Fannie Flagg

Folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe is the now-classic novel of two women in the 1980s: of gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode telling her life story to Evelyn, who is in the sad slump of middle age. The tale she tells is also of two women—of the irrepressibly daredevilish tomboy Idgie and her friend Ruth—who back in the thirties ran a little place in Whistle Stop, Alabama, a Southern kind of Cafe Wobegon offering good barbecue and good coffee and all kinds of love and laughter, even an occasional murder. And as the past unfolds, the present—for Evelyn and for us—will never be quite the same again. . . .

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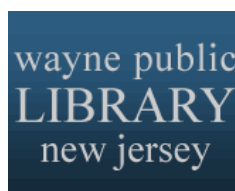


Bread Alone

By Judith Ryan Hendricks

When in doubt, bake bread at least that is what Wyn Morrison does. She was once known as Wyn Franklin, but one day her husband informed her that they were growing apart and that he needed some time to himself. Having been a career wife who managed her busy ad executive husband's successful social life, Wyn is lost. To top it all off, her mother has found happiness with another man after being a widow for 15 years. Wyn still desperately misses her father and can't quite become accustomed to the idea that her mother is going to remarry. Breadmaking is her solace, and it leads quickly to a job in a bakery and a chance at a new life. In addition, Wyn meets Mac, a handsome bartender who could prove to be the man able to make her truly happy. Dotted with bread recipes, Hendricks's engaging first novel will appeal to fans of a good story and intriguing characters.

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“Science means simply the aggregate of all the recipes that are always successful. All the rest is literature.”

~ Paul Valery

“I did toy with the idea of doing a cook-book. The recipes were to be the routine ones: how to make dry toast, instant coffee, hearts of lettuce and brownies. But as an added attraction, at no extra charge, my idea was to put a fried egg on the cover. I think a lot of people who hate literature but love fried eggs would buy it if the price was right.”

~ Groucho Marx





Vineyard Prey By Philip Craig

"Shoulder season" on Martha's Vineyard is time for a little scalloping until ex-cop J.W. Jackson's placid life is disturbed by the advent of an assassin. Joe Begay, J.W.'s old Vietnam buddy, has sent his family away because he thinks he's being hunted by a mysterious killer known as the Easter Bunny. Although Joe never talks about his work, he's clearly involved with secret intelligence operations, and several people he worked with have recently met unexpected deaths. Hoping to keep Joe alive, J.W. moves his family to one of the houses he cares for. The arrival of one of Joe's colleagues, sexy Kate MacLeod, who barely escaped her booby-trapped apartment, brings more jeopardy. When the man who looked to be following her is shot, he turns out to be not the killer but a government agent. Since Kate likes to spread her favors around, some people suspect a spurned lover rather than the Easter Bunny. Things heat up further when Joe's car explodes in his driveway. With the local police, the feds, and J.W.'s friend Jake Spitz, an FBI agent, all looking into the crimes, it would seem that J.W. could go back to scalloping, but his penchant for trouble keeps him in the thick of things.

Available at Wayne in Fiction and on Audio-CD at Preakness



Blueberry Muffin Murder By Joanne Fluke

To fight the late February doldrums, Lake Eden, Minn., is about to celebrate its first winter carnival with ice sports on the lake, activities for children and Hannah's delicious cookies from her shop, the Cookie Jar. The whole town is involved, and even Hannah's mother, who usually spends her time trying to get Hannah married, has found a new interest in recreating the home of one of Lake Eden's founding fathers. Connie MacIntyre, bestselling cook book author and star of a popular cable TV cooking show, has agreed to make the cake for the carnival banquet. But when Hannah discovers Connie's dead body in the pantry of the Cookie Jar, Hannah and her sister Andrea join forces to track down the killer, despite warnings by one of her boyfriends, policeman Mike Kensington, to stay out of the investigation. Since everyone who had contact with the abusive Connie disliked her, the sisters have plenty of suspects.

Available at Preakness in Fiction and in Large-Type and on Audio-CD at Wayne

Sticks and Scones By Diane Mott Davidson

Smithy Ide is a really nice guy. But he's also an overweight, friendless, womanless, hard-drinking, 43-year-old self-professed loser with a breast fetish and a dead-end job, given to stammering "I just don't know" in life's confusing moments. When Smithy's entire family dies, he embarks on a trans-continental bicycle trip to recover his sister's body and rediscover what it means to live. Along the way, he flashes back to his past and the hardships of his beloved sister's schizophrenia, while his dejection encourages strangers to share their life stories. The road redeems the innocent Smithy: he loses weight; rescues a child from a blizzard; rebuffs the advances of a nubile, "apple-breasted" co-cyclist after seeing a vision of his dead sister; and nurtures a telephone romance with a paraplegic family friend as he processes his rocky past.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction; in Large-Type & on Audio-Cassette at Wayne

Crepes of Wrath By Tamar Myers

When Lizzie Mast, a kindly Amish woman, dies of a drug overdose, Melvin Stoltzfus, the inept police chief of Hernia, Pa., asks Magdalena to investigate. Leaving her seven zany guests to fend for themselves on the A.L.P.O. (Amish Lifestyle Plan Option) at the PennDutch Inn and trying not to neglect her new love interest, handsome Jewish doctor Gabriel Rosen, Magdalena calls on Joseph Mast, Lizzie's widowed husband. Joseph attributes his wife's death to his neighbors the Keims and "rumschprunge" (the Amish equivalent of teenage rebellion). The two eldest Keim boys secretly purchased a car and ran over the Masts' Vietnamese pot-bellied pig and pet ferret. In retaliation, Joseph shot out the car's tires. Is it a simple case of retribution or something more sinister that led to Lizzie's murder? The Pennsylvania Dutch countryside provides a bucolic setting for Magdalena as she weaves in and out of the English (non-Amish) and Amish societies in her search for the killer. Magdalena's irrepressible personality, amusing colloquial speech and quirky habits (she keeps her pet kitten in her bra) will delight the reader, while the asides on Amish society offer insights into a traditional culture trying to retain its integrity in the 21st century.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and at Preakness in Paperback

